

Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

February 18, 2009

Synopsis

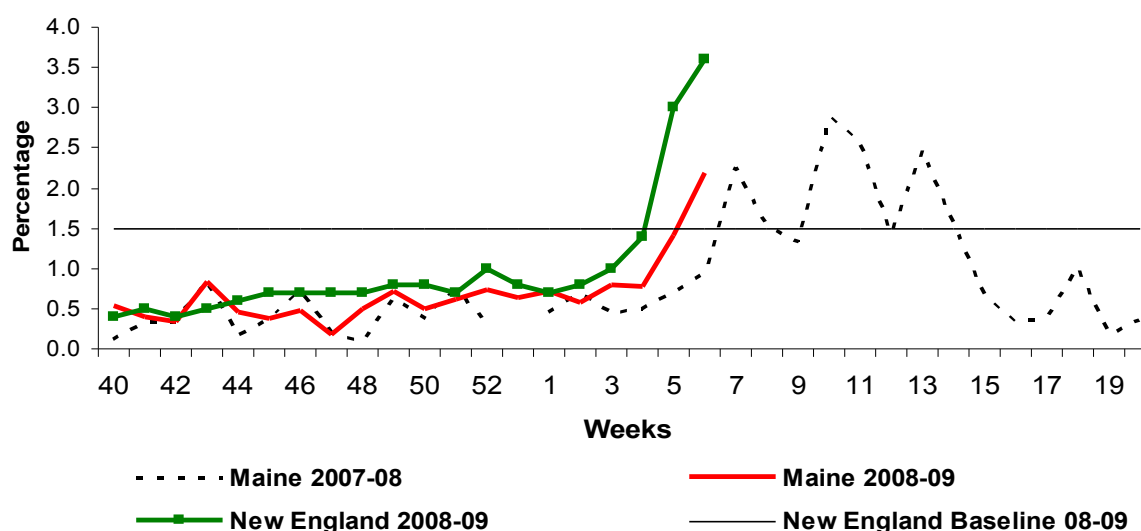
During the week ending February 14th, 2009 (MMWR week 6)*, Maine reported widespread influenza activity. This week 65 cases of influenza were lab confirmed by culture or PCR. Fifty six cases were confirmed influenza A and nine cases were confirmed influenza B. To date, 25 positive influenza A samples have been subtyped by the Maine Health and Environmental Testing (HETL) Laboratory: 24 were A H1, and one was A H3. Influenza detected by rapid testing also increased this week, with 127 positives being reported. There were twelve new outbreaks of influenza-like illness reported during week 6, ten in schools and two in long term care facilities. Outpatient influenza-like illness visits increased this week, both in Maine, and in the New England States.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)

During the week ending February 14th, 2009, 2.2% of outpatient visits reported by nine Maine Sentinel Providers were for influenza-like illness (ILI). ILI is defined as fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}$ F / $\geq 37.8^{\circ}$ C) AND cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. In the New England States, 3.6% of outpatient visits were attributed to influenza-like illness during week 5. This is the first week that Maine has gone above the New England baseline, and shows an increase in ILI visits in both Maine and the New England Area.

Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness – Maine, 2007-09



New England is defined as Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

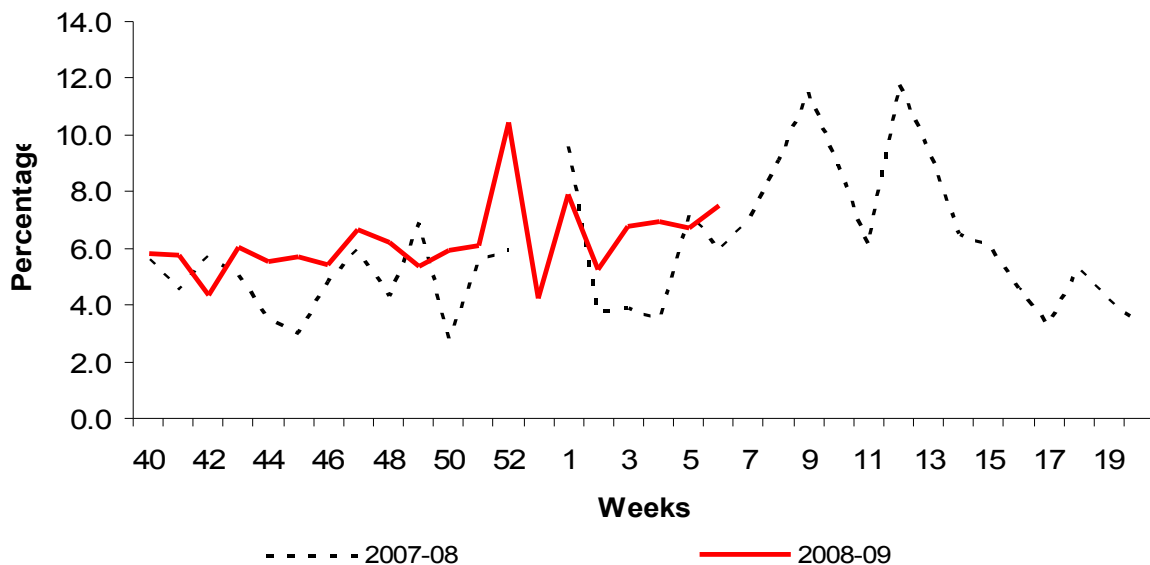
* At time of publication, reporting may be incomplete. Numbers presented here may change as more reports are received.

Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients

During the week ending February 14th, 2009, 7.5% of hospital admissions reported by three hospitals were attributable to pneumonia or influenza.

Hospital Admissions Due to Pneumonia or Influenza -- Maine, 2007-09

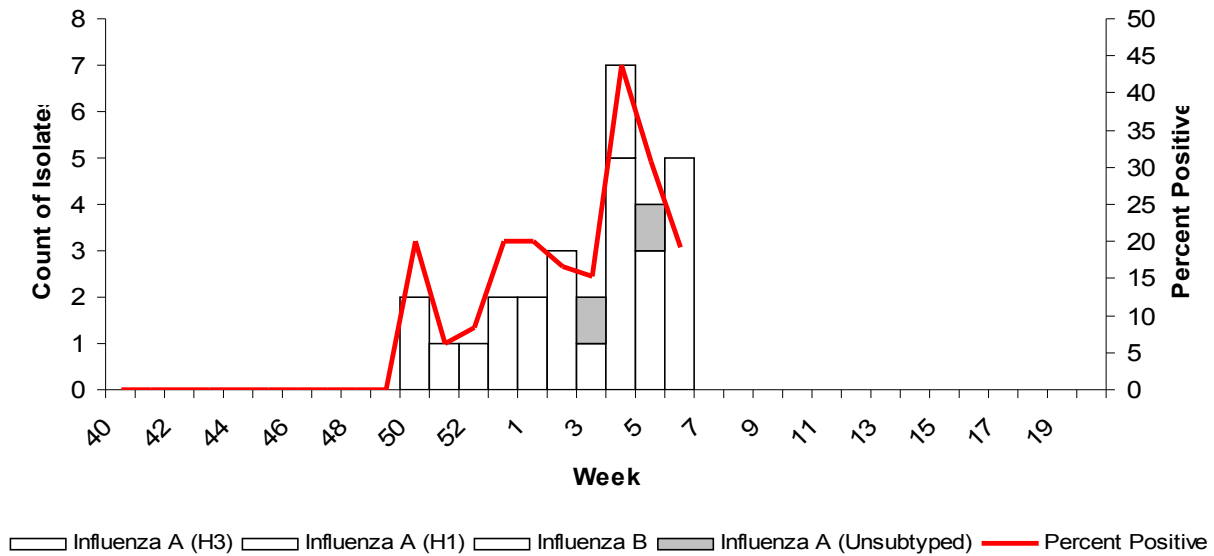


Laboratory Reporting

During the week ending February 14th, 2009, 26 samples were submitted for testing to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL). Five (19.2%) tested positive for influenza. All five were positive for influenza A, H1.

To date, 183 samples have been submitted, 29 (15.8%) were positive for influenza: 24 for influenza A H1, one for influenza A H3, two for influenza A unsubtype, and two for influenza B.

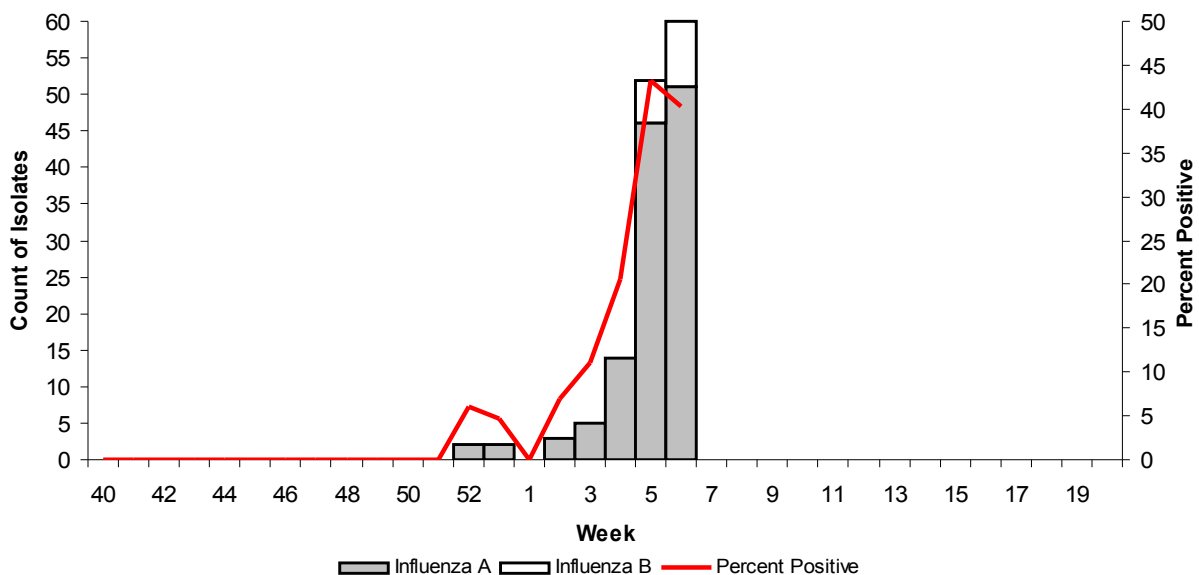
Respiratory Specimens Positive for Influenza from HETL, Maine, 2008-2009



During the week ending February 14th, 2009, 149 samples were submitted for testing to one private reference laboratory, 51 tested positive for influenza A and nine tested positive for influenza B. Ten samples were positive for RSV, and one sample was positive for adenovirus.

A combined total of 854 specimens have been submitted for respiratory testing to two private labs. To date, 123 samples were positive for influenza A, 15 samples were positive for influenza B, 55 samples were positive for RSV, ten samples were positive for parainfluenza 3, four samples were positive for adenovirus, and two samples were positive for enterovirus.

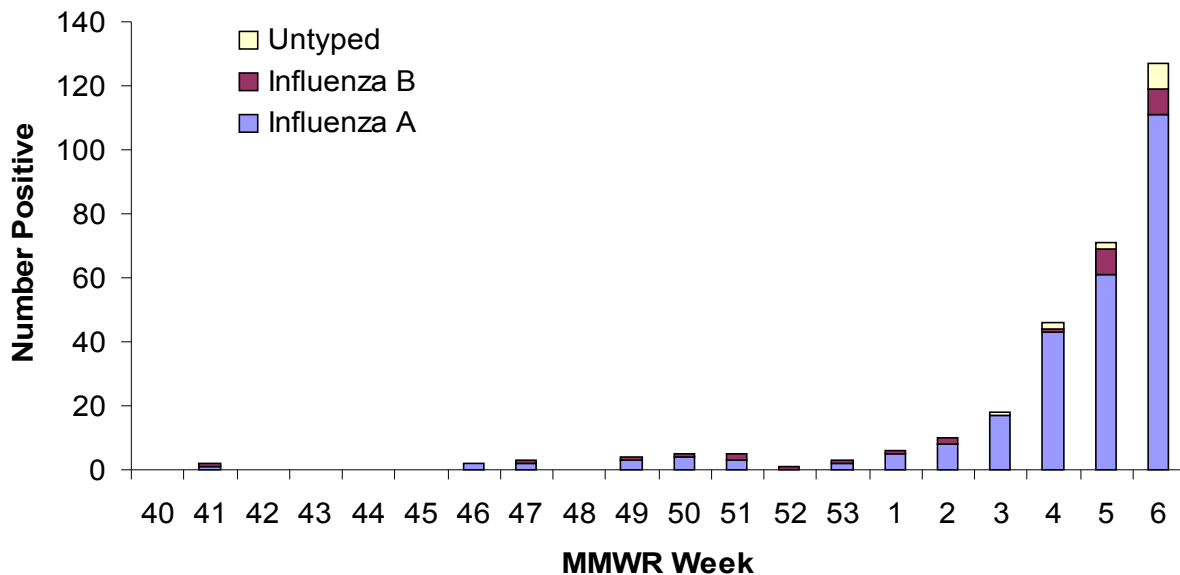
Respiratory Specimens Positive for Influenza from Two Reference Laboratories, Maine, 2008 - 2009



Rapid tests are often used in clinical practice and these results contribute to the determination of the state influenza activity code reported to the federal CDC. Many hospitals, laboratories, and physicians offices report these test results to the state. There is the possibility of duplication of results from reference labs and the rapid report called into the state. However, since influenza is not required to be reported, it is still assumed that these numbers are an underrepresentation of the true burden of influenza.

During the week ending February 14th, 2009, 127 samples tested positive using rapid testing, 111 for influenza A, eight for influenza B, and eight untyped samples. A combined total of 303 positive rapid tests have been reported this season. 262 were positive for influenza A, 28 were positive for influenza B, and 13 were not typed.

Positive Rapid Influenza Tests, Maine, 2008-2009



Outbreaks

During the week ending February 14th, 2009, 12 outbreaks of influenza-like illness were reported in Maine. Ten of these outbreaks were in schools, and two were in a long term care facilities. Six outbreaks were in the Mid Coast district, four in the York district, one in the Downeast district, and one in the Western district. To date, 18 outbreaks of influenza-like illness have been reported; six in long term care facilities, and 12 in schools.

Influenza-like illness outbreaks by selected characteristics – Maine, 2008-09

	Facility Type*	District**	Date Reported	Attack Rate (%)		Hospital-izations #	Deaths #	Vaccination rate (%)		Lab-confirmed
				Resident	Staff			Resident	Staff	
1	LTC	Cumberland	11/21/2008	6	1	0	0	100	68	No
2	LTC	Mid Coast	1/22/2009	4	0	2	0	96	50	Influenza A
3	LTC	Western	1/26/2009	2	^	^	^	^	^	Influenza A
4	LTC	Cumberland	1/30/2009	2	0	1	0	96	64	Influenza A
5	School	York	2/2/2009	34	^	^	^	^	^	Influenza A
6	School	Penquis	2/4/2009	1	0	^	^	^	^	Influenza A
7	School	Mid Coast	2/9/2009	26	13	^	^	^	^	No
8	School	Mid Coast	2/9/2009	16	^	^	^	^	^	No
9	School	York	2/10/2009	^	^	^	^	^	^	^
10	LTC	York	2/10/2009	3	^	^	^	^	^	Influenza A
11	School	Downeast	2/10/2009	4	^	^	^	^	^	Influenza A
12	School	Mid Coast	2/10/2009	19	^	^	^	^	^	Influenza A & B
13	School	Mid Coast	2/2/2009	21	^	^	^	^	^	Influenza A
14	LTC	Mid Coast	2/10/2009	^	^	^	^	^	^	^
15	School	Mid Coast	2/10/2009	46	^	^	^	^	^	Influenza A
16	School	York	2/11/2009	15	^	^	^	^	^	^
17	School	York	2/11/2009	15	^	^	^	^	^	Influenza B
18	School	Western	2/13/2009	39	^	^	^	^	^	Influenza A

* Outbreak definition is specific to facility type. An outbreak in long-term care facilities (LTC) is defined as ≥ 3 patients with ILI identified on same floor or ward during a short (e.g., 48-72 hour) period OR ≥ 1 patients with lab-confirmed influenza; an outbreak in an acute care facility (ACF) is defined as ≥ 1 patients with ILI or lab-confirmed influenza with symptom onset ≥ 48 hours post-admission (i.e., nosocomial); and an outbreak in a school is defined as $\geq 15\%$ absentee rate among student population due to ILI or lab-confirmed influenza.

^ Data unavailable

NA indicates not applicable

**Maine DHHS Districts:

York District: York county

Cumberland District: Cumberland county

Western District: Franklin, Oxford, and Androscoggin counties

Mid Coast District: Waldo, Knox, Lincoln and Sagadahoc counties

Central District: Somerset and Kennebec counties

Penquis District: Piscataquis and Penobscot counties

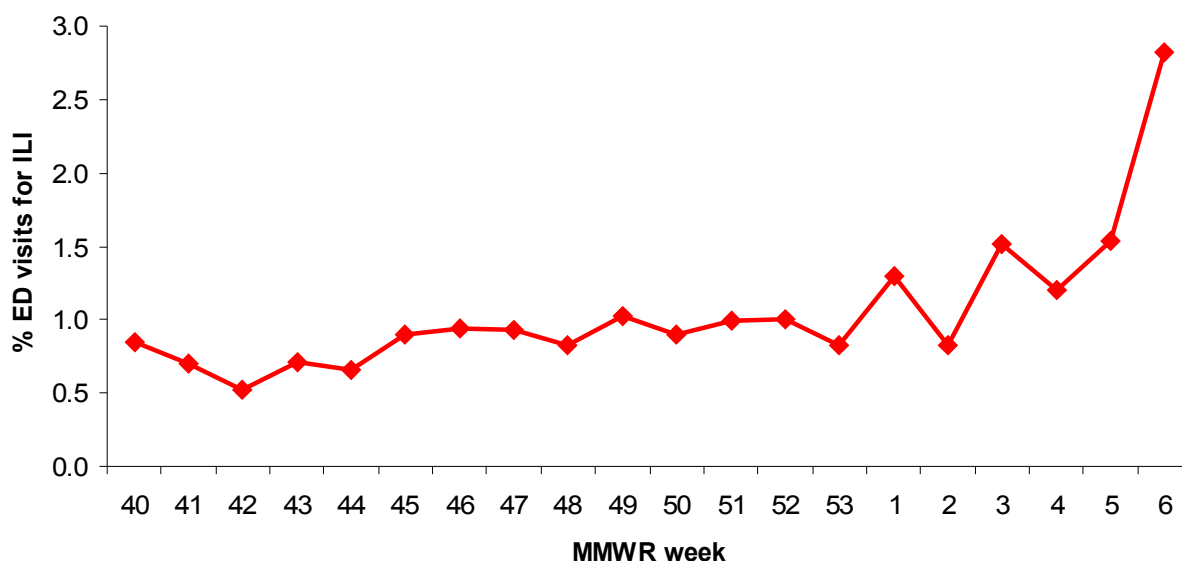
Downeast District: Washington and Hancock counties

Aroostook District: Aroostook county

Syndromic Surveillance

2.8% of visits to emergency departments at seven of Maine's hospitals were characterized as influenza-like illness during week 6, based on the patients' chief complaint.

Emergency Department visits for ILI at Seven Hospitals – Maine, 2008-09

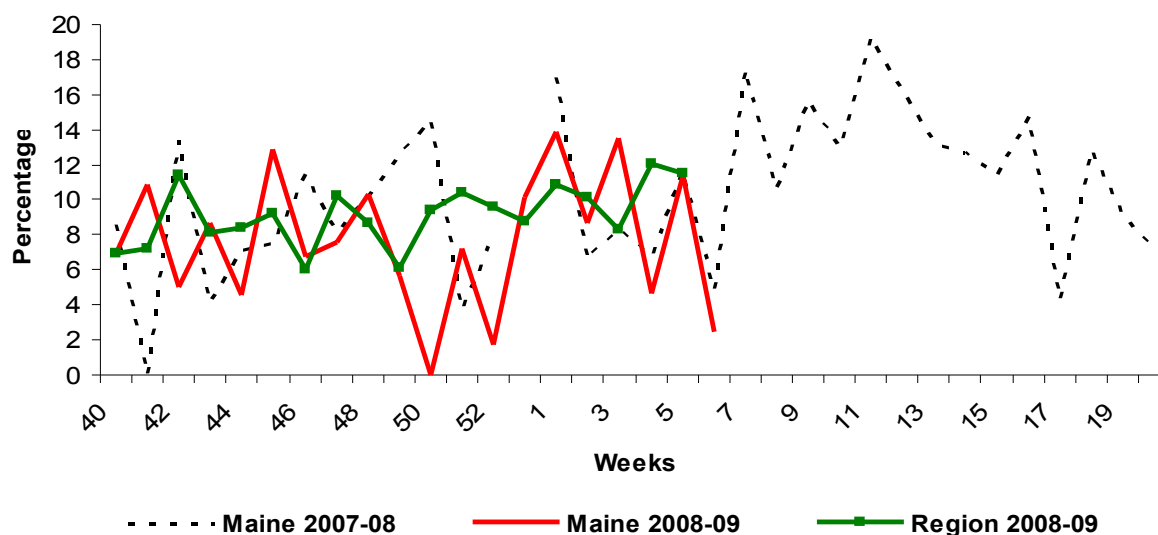


Fatalities Surveillance

Death Certificates

During the week ending February 14th, 2009, 2.5% of deaths reported by two city vital records offices were attributable to pneumonia and influenza.

Percentage of Deaths Attributable to Pneumonia and Influenza – Maine, New England and the United States, 2007-09



Pediatric Fatalities

No influenza-associated pediatric deaths in Maine have been reported this season.

National Influenza Activity

State health departments report the estimated level of influenza activity in their states each week. States report influenza activity as: 1) no activity, 2) sporadic, 3) local, 4) regional, or 5) widespread (definitions of these levels can be found at: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm). Maine reported widespread activity for the week ending February 14th, 2009 (week 6).

